

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-11

FMC-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-06

SCCT-02 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 FEA-02 TRSE-00 SS-20

SY-03 L-03 IO-14 SCA-01 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

NSC-07 DRC-01 /183 W

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R 211616Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8900

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03567

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, UK

SUBJ: TERRORIST ATTACK THREAT WARNING TO UK SHIPPING

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ON MARCH 16, 1974, LEADING MARITIME AND NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS CARRIED A NEWS ITEM ATTRIBUTED TO THE UK CHAMBER OF SHIPPING (COS) WHICH IN ESSENCE SAID "FOLLOWING THE RECENT VC-10 HIJACKING, WE RECEIVED RENEWED REPORTS ON THE DANGER OF TERRORIST THREATS AGAINST BRITISH TARGETS INCLUDING SHIPS. WE AT ONCE ALERTED SHIPPING COMPANIES TO IT. THERE IS NO NEW INFORMATION NOW BUT WE FELT IT RIGHT TO ISSUE A FURTHER PRECAUTIONARY WARNING TO OUR MEMBERS." END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. THERE WAS UNCERTAINTY AMONG MID-LEVEL MANAGEMENT IN COS AS TO WHERE THE THREAT INFORMATION EMANATED. SOME FAIRLY SENIOR COS REPS THOUGHT IT CAME FROM DEPARTMENT OF TRADE (DT). EMBASSY CONTACT WITH APPROPRIATE DT OFFICE ELICITED VAGUE RESPONSE ABOUT ALWAYS BEING PREPARED BUT ENDED WITH CLEAR STATEMENT THAT HAD NOT ISSUED THE WARNING. LATER, CONFIDENTIAL

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EMBOFF WAS CONTACTED BY A MR. HAZELTINE, MOD, MIDDLE

EAST INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT, WHO RELATED THE FOLLOWING STORY: FOLLOWING THE VC-10 HIJACK, HIS DEPARTMENT HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION OF A THIN AND NEBULOUS THREAT TO A SHIP SOMEWHERE, SOMEHOW BUT PROBABLY TO A BRITISH OIL TANKER IN THE MIDDLE EAST/PERSIAN GULF AREA. HIS DEPARTMENT COULDN'T CONFIRM VALIDITY OF SOURCE OF THREAT INFORMATION BUT OWING TO TIMING ON HEELS OF VC-10 HIJACK, THEY DECIDED TO ADVISE THE NAVY DEPARTMENT. NAVY DECIDED TO WARN THEIR OWN FLEET AUXILIARY VESSELS IN PERSIAN GULF AREA TO EXERCISE INCREASED VIGILANCE. THEN, JUST TO BE SAFE, NAVY DECIDED TO ADVISE THE COS THAT, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC THREAT, SHIPS

MASTERS WOULD DO WELL TO KEEP THEIR EYES OPEN. COS THEN SENT OUT THE WARNING IN PARA. 1 ABOVE. HAZELTINE CONSIDERS THAT MERCHANT VESSELS HAVE A LATENT HIGH RISK OF SOME FORM OF TERRORIST ATTACK BECAUSE OF THEIR VULNERABILITY. NO MORE SPECIFIC THREAT APPARENTLY EXISTS. END CONFIDENTIAL.

SOHM

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## Message Attributes

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